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In Iran he now succeeds Ambassador Erik Lang, who played a prominent intermediary role in the American Embassy hostage affair in Teheran. Mr Lang has been appointed Swiss ambassador to Algeria.

★ ★ ★

SWISS members of parliament representing all major parties are urging tighter government controls on the employment of go-go girls from developing countries.

A petition launched by Social Democrat MP and lawyer Moritz Leuenberger claims that many girls are hired under false pretences, sign contracts they can not read, and are exploited by unscrupulous nightclub owners. Most of the girls come from the poorest population groups, says the petition, and are afraid to complain to the authorities.

Official figures show that in Zurich alone 31 nightclubs are currently employing 140 go-go girls – almost all of them from Thailand, the Philippines and the Caribbean.

★ ★ ★

THE thrifty Swiss are way ahead of the rest of the world when it comes to saving money, according to latest official figures.

A survey by the Geneva-based International Savings Banks Institute reveals that, on average, each Swiss has US\$14,461 stacked away in savings. Way behind in second spot is Belgium with per capita savings of US\$9,043, followed by the Japanese with US\$8,748. Other top savers are West

Germany (\$7,931), Austria (\$5,913), Sweden (\$5,604), the United States (\$5,583), France (\$5,285), and Norway (\$5,273).

Savings banks attract around half the savings market in most industrialised countries, reports the Institute. Their biggest competition comes from insurance companies and securities.

★ ★ ★

THOUSANDS of Swiss who queued for hours to see an exhibition of 2,000-year-old Chinese statues have now been told that the supposedly ancient treasures are imitations made in Hongkong.

The Zurich Art Museum said the statues of warriors and their horses – on display at large department stores in several Swiss cities – were in fact Hongkong copies of originals uncovered in 1974. And the museum's findings have been supported by the Chinese Embassy in Berne.

But the exhibition organisers, who have insured the "fakes" for Sfr. 21 million, still maintain that the statues are original. "The statues have been restored since their discovery – but they are genuine", insisted a store spokesman.

★ ★ ★

THE Swiss-based International Olympic Committee has presented its annual cup to the Swiss Government, in recognition of this country's help in promoting the Olympic cause.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, Spanish president of the 82-member committee, handed over the Olympic Cup to Swiss President

Kurt Furgler, whose government recently granted an IOC request to be given international status.

This eases the committee's tax burden and enables it to hire non-Swiss staff without problems over work permits. The decision set the seal on more than half a century of close co-operation between Swiss authorities and the IOC which began in 1917 when Baron Pierre de Coubertin, pioneer of the modern Olympic Games, established the panel in Lausanne.

The committee plans to move in 1985 from its present cramped headquarters in the Château de Vidy into a purpose-built centre in Lausanne comprising offices, a conference hall, library and museum.

★ ★ ★

SO England have finally made it to this year's World Football Cup finals in Spain, while Switzerland again failed to qualify. The English will be competing in the final tournament for the first time since 1970; Switzerland's last appearance was in 1966.

Ironically, the Swiss almost dashed England's chances with last year's shock 2-1 victory at Basle – but they then went on to ease England's path to the finals by taking three points off Rumania. When England finally clinched their place in Spain with that 1-0 victory over Hungary, *Der Bund* of Berne typified the reaction of the Swiss soccer world with this comment: "The whole of England is in ecstasy. It's a bright new world again. It seems not to matter to the English that they had to depend upon the efforts and achievements of other teams – not least, Switzerland."

SWISS SOCCER

Football League tables up to and including 6 December

'A' Division

| A Division | Pl | W | D | L | Gls | Pts | |
|--------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|----|
| Servette | 15 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 52 | 13 | 28 |
| Zürich | 15 | 9 | 6 | 0 | 26 | 12 | 24 |
| Grasshoppers | 15 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 30 | 13 | 21 |
| Xamax | 15 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 26 | 12 | 20 |
| Sion | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 30 | 20 | 19 |
| Young Boys | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 26 | 19 | 18 |
| Basle | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 21 | 20 | 15 |
| Aarau | 15 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 26 | 30 | 14 |
| Lucerne | 14 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 25 | 26 | 13 |
| St. Gallen | 15 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 21 | 26 | 13 |
| Bulle | 15 | 3 | 4 | 8 | 18 | 32 | 10 |
| Vevey | 14 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 18 | 28 | 9 |
| Bellinzona | 15 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 33 | 9 |
| Lausanne | 14 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 19 | 27 | 8 |
| Chiasso | 15 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 9 | 24 | 8 |
| Nordstern | 15 | 3 | 1 | 11 | 16 | 40 | 7 |

'B' Division

| B' Division | Pl | W | D | L | Gls | Pts | |
|----------------|----|----|---|----|-----|-----|----|
| Winterthur | 15 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 34 | 14 | 23 |
| Wettingen | 15 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 33 | 16 | 23 |
| Chénois | 14 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 26 | 11 | 20 |
| Grenchen | 14 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 28 | 18 | 18 |
| Chaux-de-Fonds | 14 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 29 | 17 | 17 |
| Locarno | 15 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 36 | 22 | 17 |
| Biel | 15 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 24 | 20 | 17 |
| Ibach | 14 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 20 | 22 | 15 |
| Mendrisiostar | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 24 | 35 | 15 |
| Fribourg | 15 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 20 | 20 | 14 |
| Lugano | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 29 | 30 | 12 |
| Berne | 14 | 3 | 3 | 8 | 20 | 32 | 9 |
| Altstätten | 15 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 29 | 9 |
| Aurore | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 14 | 39 | 8 |
| Frauenfeld | 14 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 26 | 8 |
| Monthey | 15 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 15 | 26 | 7 |

Lines separate championship leader, relegation and promotion zones.